

Two  
Sections  
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12 Pages

# Torrance

and LOMITA NEWS



SIXTEENTH YEAR—NO. 37

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 1930

5c PER COPY

## POETRY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Mrs. Beulah Lewis Wins Title of Poet Laureate of City in Contest; Mrs. Sleeth, Second; Col. Forbes, Third

With the tabulation of the judges' selections among the 24 poems submitted by 12 local poets in the Herald's first annual poetry contest, the final result at noon today stood:

Mrs. Beulah Lewis, of 1915 Gramercy avenue, winner of first place and the title of Poet Laureate of Torrance.

Mrs. Roxie E. Sleeth, of 1616 Post avenue, winner of second place; and Col. J. E. Forbes, 2121 Carson street, winner of third place.

In extending congratulations to Mrs. Lewis for her poems entitled "Unity" and "Judge, Not," the Herald is not unmindful of the work done by the other entrants in the novel contest to decide the laureateship of the city. The 12 versifiers who entered deserve to be highly congratulated for their efforts and the quality of verse they produced for the contest.

In explaining how the result was arrived at, it must be understood that none of the judges knew whose poems they were judging. The names were removed from all poems and the papers marked with a serial number. The judges picked the winners by the poem alone and handed the winning numbers to the Herald. When all six judges had turned in their

decisions, the winners as selected by each judge were given points; three for first place; two for second and one for third.

Mrs. Lewis received nine points; Mrs. Sleeth, eight, and Col. Forbes, six, in this manner. The judges of the contest were: Mrs. Lillian M. Rous, 1225 Cargaret avenue; W. Rufus Page, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Edna Stone, 1617 Cota avenue; Mrs. H. Dolley, 1443 Post avenue; Charles Myers, manager of Stone and Myers, and Mrs. Cosette Mulholland, of Cosette Frolic Shoppe.

Everything possible was done by the Herald to make the contest fair and equal to all contenders; the poems were submitted to the judges exactly as they were received with the exception of having the names of the entrants deleted. The judges were highly complimentary to all of the entrants, each of them declaring that they did not know there was so much talent in Torrance.

One Lomita Entry  
There was but one entry from Lomita, but the judges were advised to awarding the title of Poet Laureate of Lomita to that entrant when no comparison contestant when no comparison

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## Harbor District Chambers Hold Session Tonight

Royal Palms Club Will Be Scene of Regional Conference

A number of Torrance citizens are expected to attend the meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce this afternoon and tonight at the Royal Palms Grove club grounds at White Point near San Pedro.

The business session is scheduled at 5 p. m. to be followed by a banquet under the fairy-like setting of this unique shore line retreat at 6:30 p. m.

Mayor John C. Porter and members of the Los Angeles city council and the Los Angeles county board of supervisors and their ladies will be guests of the federation on this occasion. Councilman A. E. Fenning, president of the federated civic group, will preside. Delegates and their friends received many courtesies throughout the day including golf privileges at the Royal Palms and a harbor boat trip this afternoon.

The hosts for the occasion are the Chamber of Commerce executives. (Continued on Page 8-A)

## Chamber Endorses Municipally Owned Water System Project

But One Director Absent As Civic Organization Pledges Support of Educational Campaign, To Acquaint Public with City-owned Utility

With the single exception of W. Harold Kingsley, who was absent from the meeting, Torrance Chamber of Commerce directors Monday afternoon this week endorsed the municipally owned water system which will be voted upon Thursday, September 25. All other directors were present and pledged the whole-hearted and enthusiastic support of the Chamber of Commerce in the coming election. An appropriation of \$500 was voted to defray the cost of conducting an educational campaign to acquaint the public with the advantages of the proposed publicly-owned water system.

Directors present were: W. Rufus Page, president, Harry H. Dolley, J. W. Post, J. W. Leech, R. H. Smith, Sam Levy, DeKalb Spurlin, and Dr. J. S. Lancaster, who voted unanimously in favor of the municipally-owned water system.

Grover C. Whyte was appointed chairman of the publicity and advertising committee, and Secretary Carl Hyde, R. R. Smith, and Sam Levy were named on the speakers' committee.

## Believe Arsonists Blasted Empty House

A distinct explosion was heard by several people, according to members of the fire department, in the neighborhood of an empty house at 1616 West 220th street which was almost completely destroyed by fire last night. The blast is believed to have caused the blaze and indicated that it was produced by persons intent on arson, it was reported.

The house is located in the Shoestring strip but the local fire department was the first on the scene. Later the San Pedro department was notified and is now conducting an investigation. There was no one around the building at the time of the fire, according to witnesses interviewed by deputy sheriff's last night. The house had been vacant for about three months, it was learned.

## Funeral Mass Is Held for Victims of Deadly Poison

Lupo Family Suffers Loss of Mother, Daughter and Grandfather

High funeral mass was celebrated at the Catholic church of the Nativity by Rev. F. D. Hurley Monday morning for three members of the Lupo family of Keystone who succumbed to botulism poisoning following a dinner of home-canned fish August 29. The rites were held for Josephine Lupo, 18-year-old daughter; her mother, Mrs. Paul Lupo, and her grandfather, Isadore Venninghina. The mother and grandfather passed away late Friday afternoon. Following the services interment took place at the Calvary cemetery mausoleum in Los Angeles.

Proceeding the rites at the church, the caskets containing the victims of the tragic poisoning were carried by pallbearers from Stone and Myers parlors to the church. They were led by a number of little girls garbed in white dresses and carrying floral wreaths. The services followed the traditional Italian funeral observances in all

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# LIES!

### NAILED TO THE MAST!

Malicious insinuations, whispered incriminations, and DOWN-RIGHT FALSEHOODS are being circulated against the Municipally Owned Water System, Public Officials, and Private Citizens who are lending their support to this much needed civic improvement. As fast as these LIES show their heads, the TORRANCE HERALD will expose them to the Sunlight of Truth. Following are some of the products of the "Whispering Campaign":

LIE NO. 1: "I hear the Columbia Steel Company's water wells have gone dry." THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE FALSEHOOD! A representative of the Torrance Herald called Bert W. Lanz, plant manager of the Columbia mills yesterday and Mr. Lanz said: "Our two water wells are flowing 100 percent, as they always have. No. 1 well is producing 525 gallons per minute, and No. 2 well is producing 630 gallons per minute, or a total of 1155 gallons per minute from the two wells. Furthermore, we have the water from both wells tested for bacteria every month and they test A-1 in every respect."

LIE NO. 2: "They say the engineer is to get \$24,000 if the election carries." This is another UTTER FALSEHOOD! City Engineer Frank Leonard will receive NO EXTRA SALARY OR FEE for the additional work entailed by the construction of the municipally owned water system. Nor will any member of his office staff receive any money except the regular salaries which are now being paid.

## Think Straight and Vote Early

Look Behind the Smoke Screen of the Water Barons Paid Propagandists, and Fight for Your Rights!

### An Editorial

By GROVER C. WHYTE

Regardless of what tactics the professional propagandists hired by the Torrance Water Company may do or say to confuse the issue and befuddle the public mind, there are certain outstanding facts concerning the proposed municipally-owned water system that far outshadow any of the side issues these hirelings may trump up. Here are the facts:

1. The present water company charges \$2.25 for 1000 cubic feet of water, and the City of Torrance will charge only \$1.10 per 1000 cubic feet, or LESS THAN HALF the price you are now paying.
2. There will be NO INCREASE in TAXES if the water bonds carry, as the City Water Department will earn sufficient profit on the \$1.10 rate to pay off the entire amount of the bonds and the interest on them.
3. All water sold by the City of Torrance through the new system will be THOROUGHLY PURIFIED and ALL OBJECTIONABLE ODORS AND TASTES TAKEN OUT BEFORE THE WATER IS PUMPED INTO THE MAINS. No longer will it be necessary to pay \$2.00 to \$3.00 per month for bottled drinking water, as the tap water will be sweet, and pure, and healthful.

4. The City of Torrance eventually must own its own water system in order to get water from the Boulder Dam, as all water from the Boulder Dam will be distributed in Southern California by the Metropolitan Water District, which is a league of Municipalities, and NO WATER WILL BE SOLD TO PRIVATE WATER COMPANIES. It certainly will be less expensive for the City of Torrance to put in its own water system now and let it be paying for itself, than to wait ten or fifteen years and be FORCED TO PAY A PRIVATE COMPANY A FANCY PRICE under condemnation proceedings.

5. Only the kind Providence of the Almighty has saved this city from the calamity of being without water for an indefinite period, as the present water system depends ENTIRELY UPON ONE LONE PIPE LINE connecting Torrance with the Dominguez Water Company wells six miles away at Truck boulevard and Carson street. If an earthquake had broken this one pipe, or even an automobile had crashed into it as it stands exposed over the surface of the road, TORRANCE WOULD BE WITHOUT WATER, except for the stinking and meagre supply that is contained in the filthy little reservoir now owned by the Torrance Water Company. The water in this dirty little uncovered pool is unfit for domestic use. It is uncovered, open to re-

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## STRAIGHT FACTS ON WATER PROBLEM TOLD BY TORRANCE CITY ENGINEER

By FRANK R. LEONARD, City Engineer

"Torrance, California, September 10, 1930. "PELLOW CITIZENS: "Whether or not the City of Torrance shall have a municipally owned water system, will be decided September 25th.

"Many of our citizens are studying this question and desire information as to what is actually proposed to be done and how the City will proceed in case the voters request that the work go forward. Others are unable to decide through lack of definite detail whether advantages will accrue in case the work is completed, and what these advantages may be.

"As the plans for the project will be made and the work done through your City Engineer's office, I shall try as briefly as possible, to discuss various phases of the proposed plan, and to answer as fully as I may those questions to which my attention has been called as well as other inquiries which probably may have arisen in various discussions concerning the matter.

"I wish to make a positive statement relative to the connection of your City Engineer's office to the work proposed.

"The project is a large one. One which demands careful scrutiny of every detail. The plans for the proposed work will be prepared in this office. The specifications which will govern the installation of this work will be so drawn as to insure the lowest price possible through competitive bidding. There will be no high priced hydraulic engineering cost pyramided against the City, but there will be the same consistent effort made by this office as was made in the recent light campaign if that will be satisfactory to the City, however, fully realizing that the installation of a successful water system requires specialized study, the plans prepared in this office will be submitted for final approval and work will not be started upon these plans until they are thoroughly checked and pronounced in proper form by competent experts.

"The amount of bonds to be sold to cover the costs of the proposed improvement is \$400,000.00. This amount is a large sum of money to be distributed. I wish to state that a thorough safeguarding of the public's interests in the expenditure of this money will be undertaken and carried through by your City Council and this office.

"Installation of the system is also extremely important. This work will be done under the supervision of capable construction ability. I thoroughly believe, and not in holding the annual show is to so inspire the residents of our community to beautify their homes with flowers and gardens that it will be as famous for the beauty of its home places as it now is for its industries. To attain this object it is essential that the largest possible number of persons enter whatever flowers they have, even though they be few in number. The interest aroused by once entering one's flowers in competition with others will lead any normal person to try harder each succeeding year to grow more and better flowers. It is pointed out.

The Flower Show committee is especially desirous of having ex-

First hand and reliable knowledge of important phases of the water situation is given in this signed article by City Engineer Frank R. Leonard. We hope that every voter will read every word of this article by the veteran City Engineer whose record of efficiency in office and honest public service is acknowledged by all. Many of the questions that have been puzzling local citizens are explained in this article by Mr. Leonard. Read every word of it.—Editor.

## You Can Believe Him



Frank R. Leonard

waters in almost every section; these objectionable features are in no way unhealthful but do develop odors and bad taste which can be removed by proper treatment before being delivered to the distribution mains.

"Nearly all of the present supply for Torrance is drawn from the large main on Carson street near Amapola avenue and is again treated by the local water company through the use of chlorine at the booster pump at this location; to treat water with chlorine is common practice in water treating plants where certain conditions prevail. In Torrance the chlorine is directly applied at the booster pump. This method of treatment, in my opinion, is not adequate as no mixing chamber is provided and very strong doses of chlorine are noticeable at certain times and in certain localities through this method of application.

"Some of the water served undoubtedly comes from the reservoir flowing back into the mains at night, and is not treated. This reservoir was built about 1912 or 1913, is not covered, has no direct drain by which it may be cleaned and so far as I have been able to learn has never been cleaned since it was built. To drain the reservoir it would be necessary to pump out the water which of course would leave the City without adequate fire protection. In any event I am of the opinion that it never

by the water company pending the question of granting the franchise or on the result of the coming election. So far as I am informed no promises have been made by the water company to provide a new reservoir or modern treating plant for Torrance.

### PROPOSED MUNICIPAL SYSTEM

"Details of the proposed municipal water system to serve Torrance are being called to your attention in the Torrance Herald. About thirty-five miles of cast iron pipe lines are proposed to be laid. Two or three wells will be drilled within the district to provide water supply. A concrete lined covered reservoir is to be built which can be drained. A 250,000 gallon tank is to be erected. Provision is to be made for water treatment and aeration facilities. Water well and reservoir site locations are to be secured.

### WATER AVAILABLE

The amount of water available and permanency of the supply must naturally be very carefully considered. It is held, and correctly so, that the underground water levels have been quite rapidly receding along the coastal plain during the last few years. This is caused partly through lack of rainfall and a continuation of dry years when the rainfall has been only about a half of normal. Until the last two or three years no provision has been made to conserve water and there has been an entire run off of flood waters; however, definite efforts are being made through building check dams in canyons and streams in the mountains, and through the diversion of water by spreading thus causing the water to enter and replenish the underground gravel and water bearing basins. This wise policy of the County Flood Control and water conservation department, in my opinion, is doing much to lessen the danger, or any quite immediate failure in

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## Legion Nominates Officers at Meet

To Hold Election Sept. 23 with Installation Later

Nomination of American Legion officers for the coming year was held at the Legion hall Tuesday night. At the next meeting, September 23, the nominations will be opened again for a short time and then closed for the election. The new officers will be installed at the meeting to be held September 29. H. M. Bailey is the present commander.

Those nominated Tuesday night were, for commander: Earl Conners; Frank Schumacher; and D. F. Naulty; for first vice commander: Louis Deisinger; for second vice commander: Grant Barkdull; for finance officer: R. J. Deisinger; for historian: P. A. Tiffany; for chaplain: William J. Sager; L. C. Doan and H. W. Darling; for sergeant at arms: Harry Cull; for service officer: William J. Sager; James Scott; J. C. Doan; James Brodie and D. F. Naulty; for executive committee (three to be elected): N. F. Jamieson, H. M. Bailey, Ray Leslie, R. J. Deisinger and Charles Myers.

## Kingsley Will Try To Defeat Water Election

Accepts Job with Torrance Water, Light and Power Company

W. Harold Kingsley informed acquaintances about the city this week that he had accepted a proposition made to him by officials of the Torrance Water, Light and

### PROPAGANDIST



W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

Power Company to use his influence in attempting to defeat the municipally owned water system project which is to be voted upon Thursday, September 25.

Kingsley admitted that he is to receive a substantial sum of money from the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company for his efforts in their behalf. He recently gave up his residence in Torrance and moved to a new home in Palos Verdes Estates. Kingsley sold out all his interests in the Torrance Herald and Lomita News on July 1, 1929, to Grover C. Whyte, the present editor and publisher. Shortly after policy of the Torrance Herald, he launched the campaign for a municipally owned water system in Torrance, and has continued the fight which has resulted in the calling of the election September 25.

**BILL THE BARBER SAYS**

THE UP-TO-DATE KITCHEN IS A PLACE WHERE A PERSON GOES TO TAKE THINGS OUT OF CANS AND PUTS THEM ON PLATES